

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 56

WHEREAS, United States Army Specialist Ryan A. Gartner was a resident of Dumont, New Jersey where he attended elementary school and Dumont High School; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Gartner graduated from the New Jersey National Guard Challenge Youth Program at Fort Dix in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Gartner was assigned to the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Gartner was an ambitious and courageous young man who loved his country and the military; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Gartner tragically lost his life while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Bagram, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Gartner was a dedicated soldier as well as a loving son and brother, whose memory lives in the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Gartner's patriotism and dedicated service to his country and his fellow soldiers make it appropriate and fitting for the State of New Jersey to remember him and his family, to mark his passing, and to honor his memory;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, in

recognition and mourning of a brave and loyal American hero,
United States Army Specialist Ryan A. Gartner.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
14th day of February,
Two Thousand and Eleven,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Fifth.

/s/Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa

Chief Counsel to the Governor